



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: Monday, June 19, 2006
Contact: Allison Bussler – Chief of Staff, (262) 548-7902

Vrakas Vetoes Facility Screening Ordinance

WAUKESHA – Waukesha County Executive Dan Vrakas vetoed the Courthouse and Administration Center Facility Screening Ordinance today because of a County Board amendment that added language and unintentionally resulted in a \$50,000 increase in operational costs.

The new language modified the proposed plan to include a third employee entrance in the Courthouse at Door 3, which is west of the main facility entrance.

Vrakas said, “I believe that the County Board had good intentions when it amended the ordinance. Since it was offered on the County Board floor, as opposed to in committee, Supervisors did not have a chance to consult with staff about the plan prior to voting on it. Having the ability to obtain all significant information, such as a fiscal estimate, is critical to crafting good policy.”

Vrakas decided to veto the ordinance because the amendment encourages pedestrians to cross at an unsafe, unmarked and illegal location; reduces the effectiveness of a controlled perimeter by increasing the likelihood of a breach; and requires an additional \$50,000 expenditure to implement.

“While an additional employee entrance would be a nice convenience for county staff, I simply cannot justify the cost and safety risks associated with it,” said Vrakas.

The Courthouse and Administration Center Facility Screening process was developed by an internal workgroup comprised of members from the judicial, legislative and executive branches of county government and included security, safety and facility experts. Their recommendation called for one public entrance at the main doors of the Courthouse, which would also be used by employees, and one employee-only entrance at the Administration Center.

###